

Lettie Prell
Director of Research

Curt Smith
Executive Assistant to the Director



Data Download

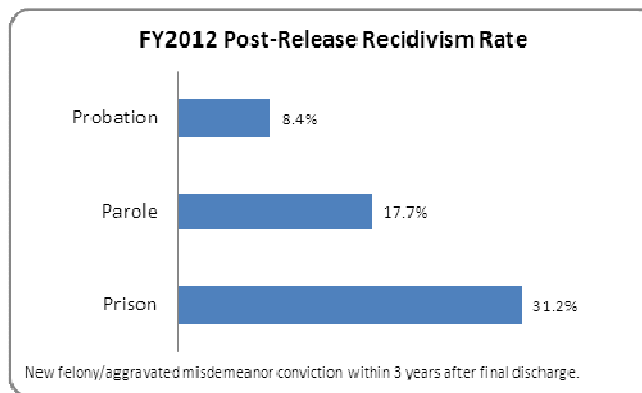


Community-Based Corrections' Impact on Recidivism

It is no surprise that probationers are less likely to receive new felony or aggravated misdemeanor convictions than are parolees following discharge from supervision; probationers tend to be at lower risk to begin with. Likewise, parolees tend to be at lower risk and less likely to be convicted of serious offenses than are offenders who complete their sentences in prison.

There are other factors impacting recidivism rates as well. National studies have shown that offender programming is more effective in least-restrictive environments. Studies have also shown that for those offenders who have been incarcerated in prison, the availability of community-based corrections supervision and programming has a significant impact on lowering recidivism.

The chart below shows post-supervision recidivism rates for offenders exiting the corrections system in FY 2009 and tracked through FY 2012. The recidivism rate for discharged probationers is less than half that of discharged parolees, and the rate for parolees is almost half that of offenders who complete their sentences in prison.



What this means for Iowa Corrections is threefold. One, community-based corrections is helping to lower recidivism rates for offenders under their supervision. Two, we need to continue our efforts to divert from incarceration those offenders not at high risk to reoffend. And three, we need to continue to look for ways to help transition back into the community those offenders completing their sentence in prison.

Recidivism Rates Down from FY 2007

Recidivism rates for probationers, parolees and prison are substantially lower for those exiting the corrections system in FY 2009 than for FY 2003, as reported in Issue #3 of the *Data Download*. This is further evidence that our adherence to offender reentry and evidence-based practices is resulting in positive outcomes.

The mission of the Iowa Department of Corrections is to:

Advance Successful Offender Reentry to Protect the Public, the Employees, and the Offenders from Victimization.